

A monthly newsletter for the citizens of the City of Rockville

# Rockville Library Turns Next Page

## January Groundbreaking A Major Step Toward New Town Square

The new Rockville Regional Library, which will be one of the prime anchors of the Rockville Town Square project in the City’s redeveloped Town Center, started its next chapter on Monday, Jan. 24, with a groundbreaking ceremony at the existing Rockville Library.

Montgomery County Executive Douglas Duncan, a former mayor of Rockville, and Rockville Mayor Larry Giammo were among the speakers at the ceremonies that were moved indoors due to snowfall.

More than 100 people attended the ceremonies that were led by Harriet Henderson, the director of the Montgomery County Library Board. Among those in attendance were Rockville Councilmembers Bob Dorsey, John Hall, Jr., Susan Hoffmann and Anne Robbins; District 17 State Senator Jennie Forehand; Montgomery County Council President Thomas Perez and County Councilmember Phil Andrews; and numerous members of Friends of the Library.

“We are pleased that Montgomery County is joining to play an important role in our City’s new Town Center,” said Rockville Mayor Larry Giammo. “As mayor, I see the

new Rockville Regional Library as one of the notable anchors of our future Town Center. As a father, I see it as a place that will help shape the futures of my children.”

Construction is expected to start soon on the library, which will cost approximately \$26.3 million and will be the largest in the Montgomery County system when completed.

Montgomery County is taking pride in the many assets the library will hold for people with special needs. The new library is scheduled to open in summer 2006.

The front of the library will face the public plaza of the mixed-use Rockville Town Square, which is the major portion of Phase I of the overall Rockville Town Center rejuvenation envisioned by Rockville’s Mayor and Council.

The library will be about 71,500 square feet, plus 12,700 square feet for library administration and another 14,700 square feet of office space for other county agencies. It will hold approximately 140,000 volumes from its present site on the corner of Maryland Avenue and Vinson Street. An additional 60,000 volumes will be purchased over a three-year period. **RR**



**ROCKVILLE OPENS THE CABINET...** *Rockville Mayor Larry Giammo and members of the City Council hosted Maryland Governor Robert Ehrlich, members of his cabinet and other high-level officials on Feb. 14 in the Mayor and Council Chambers in City Hall. The governor and cabinet members spread throughout Montgomery County early in the day and met in Rockville in the afternoon to report their experiences. Mayor Giammo also had the opportunity to update all of the officials on progressive programs in Rockville, including the future Town Center. “The revitalization of this town—and it is a town—is really moving,” said Governor Ehrlich, who has been a frequent visitor. Sitting at the head of the room during the cabinet review above, are, left to right: Lt. Governor Michael S. Steele, Governor Ehrlich and Mayor Giammo.*

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For the latest information on upcoming Mayor and Council worksessions, general sessions and and public hearings, visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/government/mc/index.htm](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/government/mc/index.htm)

## City Seeks Refuge From Refuse Cost Increases

The spiraling cost of collecting refuse has the Mayor and Council considering several changes in the program in an attempt to minimize long-term cost increases.

On Feb. 7, national solid waste consultant R.W. Beck presented its findings on Rockville’s refuse collection operation based upon a study started in June 2004. Part of the study included a survey that was sent to 2,200 Rockville residents. Responses were received from 1,000 residents, a 45 percent response rate.

Rockville has been collecting refuse with minimal changes for decades. The survey found that 72 percent of respondents are supportive of the City making decisions that would lessen increasing rates.

R.W. Beck made several recommendations that it felt would

help the City control costs, including going to once-a-week collections (instead of the current twice-a-week). The new schedule would be supported by the newer technology of “semi-automated” trucks. Under a semi-automated system, residents would receive strong trash cans on wheels that are easy to maneuver and generally could hold a family of five’s weekly trash.

The report also recommended elimination of back yard collection service, except for elderly and disabled residents who qualify for a waiver.

The Mayor and Council asked for more information from R.W. Beck before addressing possible changes. **RR**

*For more details on proposed changes to Rockville’s refuse collection program, see story on Page 4.*

## ’06 Budget Beginnings

The public portion of the City’s road to adopting a 2006 budget has begun.


Since November, City staff has been working to collect vital information for City Manager Scott Ullery and the Mayor and Council to review and prioritize the City needs.

Key opportunities for the public to participate in the process will take place this spring.

Citizens are encouraged to take part in two public hearings on April 18 and 25, following Ullery’s presentation of the proposed budget to the Mayor and Council on April 4.

Three public worksessions also will be held on Feb. 22, May 2 and May 16. The budget is scheduled to be adopted on June 6.

For more information visit [www.rockvillemd.gov](http://www.rockvillemd.gov). **RR**



### Rockville: A City with Class

**Rockville’s Department of Recreation and Parks and its individual facilities offer classes and programs of many varieties. Some of the programs are rare — such as senior citizens dodgeball (photo left). This month’s edition of Rockville Reports looks at some of these unique opportunities. See special insert inside.**

## March’s Best of Rockville

### March 6

**Rockville Arts Sampler** The F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre resident performing groups present vignettes. Rockville Annual Arts Awards winners will be honored. 3 p.m. F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre. 240-314-8690

### March 6-22

**Glenview Mansion Art Gallery Rockville Student Art Show** Creative work on display from students K-12. Reception Sunday, March 6, 1-4 p.m. For more information, call 240-314-8682 (see photo right)



### March 26

**Spring Eggstravaganza and Family Kite Festival** Egg hunts, pictures with Peter Cottontail, kite flying and more. 10 a.m.-12 noon. Rockville Civic Center Park. FREE. 240-314-8620

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# Walk this Way:

## Important Pedestrian Safety Tips

Thousands of pedestrians can be found on Rockville’s streets and sidewalks each day. But whether it is a walk for a shopping trip, business meeting or simply for exercise, pedestrians should keep a few safety tips in mind because in accidents involving vehicles and pedestrians, the pedestrian always loses.

“In the majority of pedestrian accidents we see, the pedestrian is at fault,” according to Captain Michael England of the City of Rockville Police Department. “Anytime you are walking across a street, even if you are following the rules, you have to be very cognizant of the situation.”

One of the most common mistakes people make, particularly in the busy Rockville Town Center and on Route 355, is not crossing where there is a designated crosswalk. This can be especially dangerous because there is no traffic control, and a distracted driver, particularly in the evening or during inclement weather, can easily not see someone walking in the middle of the road.

Many rushed pedestrians also can be found walking when the crosswalk signal indicates that they should not walk.

“These signals are coordinated and set-up for movement of traffic,” adds England. “When people ignore them, they are at risk.”

While it is not against the law, England also suggests that walkers with headphones remove them before they cross a street.

“Often times you hear danger before you see it. Removing the headphones just before you cross the street will enable you to stay safe,” he said.

The new lighted crosswalks and countdown timers Rockville has recently added to its streets offer additional protection for pedestrians.

England also encourages motorists to exercise courtesy by keeping careful watch for pedestrians entering the crosswalks and stopping to allow them to cross safely. **RR**

# Camine por aquí

## Pautas de seguridad para peatones

Cada día se pueden ver cientos de peatones que caminan por las calles y las aceras de Rockville. Ya sea por un paseo corto, para ir de compras, por una reunión de empresarios o sencillamente para hacer ejercicios, los peatones deben tener presente algunas pautas de seguridad mientras caminan por la Ciudad. “En la mayoría de los accidentes peatonales, vemos que el peatón es culpable”, dice el Capitán Michael England del Departamento de Policía de

la Ciudad de Rockville. “Cuando quiera que usted camine por una calle, debe mantenerse muy consciente de la situación aunque respete las reglas”.

Una de las equivocaciones más comunes que cometen las personas, en particular en el concurrido Centro de la Ciudad de Rockville y en la Ruta 355, es no cruzar por donde hay un cruce peatonal marcado. Esto puede ser especialmente peligroso cuando no hay control del tránsito y un conductor distraído, en particular du-

rante la noche o cuando el tiempo es inclemente, no puede ver fácilmente si alguien camina por el medio de la calle. También puede verse a muchos peatones apresurados que avanzan cuando la señal de cruce peatonal indica que no deben hacerlo. “Esas señales se coordinan y se establecen para el movimiento del tránsito; cuando las personas las pasan por alto corren riesgos”, agrega England e indica: “Si bien no es ilegal, quienes usan audífonos se los deberían sacar antes de cruzar una calle porque, a menudo, se



Above are two examples of the ways pedestrians cross the streets of Rockville. The woman on the left is walking in the crosswalk at the correct signal time. The person on the right is incorrectly cutting across the middle of the road without a signal to walk and he is not in a crosswalk.

escucha la señal de peligro antes de verla. Ello les permitirá permanecer seguro”.

Los nuevos cruces peatonales iluminados y los cronómetros de cuenta regresiva instalados recientemente en las calles de Rockville ofrecen protección adicional a los peatones. En-

gland también alienta a los automovilistas a que sean corteses, mientras mantienen una vigilancia cuidadosa de los peatones que utilizan los cruces peatonales, y se detengan para permitirles cruzar con seguridad. **RR**

— Translated by Victoria Imas-Duchovney

# Focus on VICTIMS’ ADVOCATE

Rockville has many programs that affect the lives of residents. On a regular basis, “Focus On” will take an introspective look at these programs and detail the impact they have for City residents.

For every crime, there is a victim. And for many victims to see that justice is done requires participation in the complex legal and social service systems. For some, this can add to their already existing physical and emotional trauma.

But for the past eight years, victims in Rockville have had a supporting, caring individual in the Rockville Police Department to turn to in navigating court proceedings and receiving local and state services.

The City of Rockville Victim Advocate is a counselor and social worker who provides important information to those affected by crime and works to help ensure they receive the necessary

support to make it through this strenuous time.

“A lot of victims are not aware of the resources available to them,” said Diane Wilkins, Rockville’s Victim Advocate. “I help inform them about the criminal justice system, their rights and give them tips on how to stop future victimization. I am there for them 24 hours a day, seven days a

**Victim Advocate Diane Wilkins provides vital information and support to crime victims in Rockville.**

week, and if necessary, even accompany them to their court proceedings to ensure they are



treated fairly.”

Along with reacting to immediate victim needs, Wilkins takes her job a step further by educating the community. Wilkins conducts information sessions and seminars on everything from domestic violence to hate crimes. In addition, she is dedicated to the safety and well being of the City’s youth. She organizes a two-day “Every 15 Minutes Program” at a Rockville high school each year to educate teens about the dangers of drunk driving.

“It is important that people know all of the resources available to help them to stay as safe as possible,” said Wilkins. “But if they are victimized in any way, there are people like me available to help.”

For more information on the City of Rockville’s Victim Advocate services, contact Wilkins at 240-314-8917 or dwilkins@rockvillemd.gov. **RR**



**CONSTRUCTION IN MOTION...** Many Rockville residents will pay their City fees in a new location in City Hall beginning in March. The cashier’s desk in City Hall will be relocated to the offices behind its current location due to renovations to the inside of the building. Signs will be posted directing patrons to the new cashier’s desk and other changes.

Built in 1960, City Hall was originally designed for 160 employees. It underwent significant expansion in 1982. However due to the significant growth in the City in the last 20 years, the number of employees working in the building has increased beyond its capacity.

The project is expected to be completed next year.





**The Rockville Town Square project at Rockville Town Center is progressing on schedule toward a grand opening in summer 2006.**

## Town Center Progress Leads to Beall Ave. Closing

Starting March 29, Beall Avenue between North Washington Street and Hungerford Drive will be completely closed to through traffic in both directions for two weeks to allow for the installation of pipes for new water and sewer drainage for the Rockville Town Square construction.

Access will remain for fire and rescue personnel to enter and exit the Rockville Fire Station and for customers and employees of commercial businesses and the Bank of America branch near North Washington Street.

On the south side of the construction project, portions of East Middle Lane will continue to be closed during non-rush hour times to allow concrete trucks to enter and exit the site.

The installation of infrastructure is one major step in the development of the new Rockville Town Square expected to open in fall 2006.

For the latest information on Rockville Town Center, including parking options and road closures, visit [www.rockville.md.gov](http://www.rockville.md.gov). **RR**

## State Highway Users Fund Could Impact Rockville Budget

The City of Rockville's Fiscal Year 2006 budget has already been the object of attention around City Hall for months, but before City Manager Scott Ullery presents a proposed budget to the Mayor and Council on April 4, actions in Annapolis could have great affect on Rockville's finances.

The City will be keeping considerable focus on the Maryland General Assembly's efforts to prepare a balanced state budget. In particular, Rockville will be watching the outcome of the "Highway Users Revenue."

The highway users fund is where several streams of transportation revenue—such as gasoline taxes and vehicle registration fees—are deposited. The funds are used for state transportation projects and significant funds are directed back to local governments for use on their road projects.

However, to help fund state budget shortfalls in the past couple of years, significant reductions were made in the amounts diverted back to jurisdictions. This created stress on local budgets.

In FY '03, Rockville received \$2.5 million in state transportation funds. State budget problems led to only \$2.0 million going to the City in FY '04 and \$2.1 in Rockville's FY '05 adopted budget.

Governor Robert Ehrlich's proposed FY '06 budget restores the formula to share funds with local governments—including a projected payment of \$3.2 million for Rockville.

"We are working on several scenarios in our budget, and some of them include the possibility we will receive significantly lower transportation funds than was included in the governor's proposed budget," said Rockville's Interim Director of Finance Dominic Del Pozzo. "The City Manager will keep the Mayor and Council informed of the possible changes in transportation funding, and what reductions could do to our FY '06 operating budget and Capital Improvements Program budget for long-term projects. For now, we will be cautiously optimistic that we will get all or most of the funds proposed." **RR**

## City Considers New Trash Options To Lessen Rate Increases

Rockville residents may be putting their trash out once a week instead of twice in the future. That trash would be placed in large rolling containers on wheels rather than the varied-size smaller cans now commonly used. And those containers would have to be rolled to the curb, rather than left in the back yard as some residents currently do.

These are among the changes to Rockville's refuse collection program that the Mayor and Council are considering after hearing a report on Feb. 7 from national solid waste consultant R.W. Beck, which has been studying Rockville's refuse collection operation since June 2004.

For more than a year, members of the Mayor and Council have been concerned with the constantly increasing costs that have led to annual rate increases. For the current fiscal year, residences have been charged \$27.75 per month, continuing increases that have averaged about seven percent over the past four years. R.W. Beck estimated that if the City continued its current operations, combined with market factors, the rate would increase to approximately \$37.50 by fiscal year 2010.

"When you have Cadillac service, you have Cadillac rates," said R.W. Beck representative John Culbertson, who added that Rockville's premiere collection service is now rare nationally as jurisdictions have changed services to control costs.

The factors that have led to

the rapidly increasing costs include a large number of employee injuries due to the current system of workers lifting heavy containers, and in some cases, dragging them from back yard locations. This results in employee overtime needed to replace injured workers. In addition, in recent years, the fees charged have not met the actual costs of collecting refuse, but the charges have been subsidized by a surplus that was in the City's refuse fund. However, that surplus no longer exists and charges will soon have to increase to reflect the actual costs.

Another key factor in the increases has been significant increases in the "tipping" fee Montgomery County charges per ton of refuse unloaded for disposal.

R.W. Beck made several recommendations that it felt would help the City control costs, including going to once-a-week collections (instead of the current twice-a-week). The new schedule would be supported by a semi-automated truck system in which large trash cans on wheels would be given to each residence. The easy to maneuver cans would hold the trash generally created by a family of five in a week. Trucks with mechanical arms would lift the cans and empty the contents into the trucks.

The report also recommended elimination of back yard collection service, except for elderly and disabled residents who qualify for a waiver. The resident survey found that 76 percent of respondents

support elimination of back yard collections and 68 percent support automated collections to help lessen rate increases.

If these methods were followed, R.W. Beck estimated an immediate impact of lessening rate increases by about \$2.20 per month. The long-term effect would help keep rates from increasing as swiftly as they have in recent years. However, all agreed that refuse operations in Rockville, like most parts of the U.S., will continue to see increased costs.

It is unlikely changes, if any, would be implemented prior to January 2006, following an extensive public education campaign to let residents know of the changes.

Another option would be to eventually go to "volume-based pricing." Under this scenario, which is used successfully in many cities, residents would be given a choice of the size of cans that would be appropriate for their families. Residences with smaller cans would be charged less each month. This method encourages residents to be more diligent about recycling, which is mandated in Rockville.

The Mayor and Council asked R.W. Beck to return to a future meeting with a potential short-term and long-term implementation plan and a detailed cost analysis of how changes would affect future rates. R.W. Beck also was asked to provide a detailed volume-base priced plan. **RR**

## Unearthing Clues to Rockville's Past

While construction workers have been digging a hole in the ground for the new Rockville Town Square, archaeologists have been busy searching through the debris for clues to Rockville's past there and around Rockville. And now a class offered through the Rockville Senior Center can help interested citizens get their hands in the dirt as well.

"What I really feel good about is that we really aren't missing things," Robin Ziek, an archaeologist who works for Rockville's Department of Community Planning and Development Services, said. "We are confirming the occupation here."

However, Town Center is not the only place in Rockville where history is found beneath the surface. For the past three years a small group has conducted four, week-long field sessions at a site in Watts Branch.

Mary Gallagher and Eugenia Robinson, professors at Mont-



**Volunteers sifting through the earth at Watts Branch have uncovered artifacts that date back to 3000 BCE.**

gomery College, have worked with the Rockville Recreation and Parks Department to lead the field sessions. Those searches are part of the Montgomery College Lifelong Learning Institute, a program designed for adults 50 and older.

With the help of dedicated volunteers, archaeologists discovered arrowheads, spear points, knives,

scrapers and pottery pieces at the site. These indicate two separate occupations, one dating back to as early as 3000 BCE, and the other about 1300 CE.

"It's a really neat site and it's important in a lot of ways," Gallagher said. "We just need help in collecting evidence before it is lost to erosion."

An introductory class offered through the Rockville Senior Center in March is expected to help spark interest in archaeological digs and build a stronger volunteer base. Gallagher and Robinson will use what they have learned through the field sessions to teach the class, which will be held on Friday afternoons.

"We really want to identify people who are interested in archaeology and whom we can train," Gallagher said.

For more information about the class, call Karen Lumpkin at 240-314-8821. **RR**

— Mary Robbins





Last fall the City installed its first raised intersection along Baltimore Avenue as one way to slow traffic in the Twinbrook neighborhood and protect pedestrians attempting to cross the street.

## A New Bump Calms Baltimore Rd. Traffic

Baltimore Road in the Twinbrook neighborhood of Rockville is a residential street that had more than its share of speeding traffic. Now, a “raised intersection” has forced drivers to slow down and make it safer for pedestrians to cross the street.

The raised intersection is located close to Edmonston Drive and the entrance to Rockville Civic Center Park. It is the first raised intersection constructed in Rockville and is another in the series of traffic calming devices Rockville’s Department of Public Works is using to help in the overall City effort to making crossing a street safer.

Other methods to slow traffic

are traffic circles (such as ones installed on Hurley Avenue and Horners Lane); speed humps (such as one on South Washington Street) and speed tables (such as one on Manatee Street). Speed humps are rounded. Speed tables rise several inches from the road, are flat across the top, and then drop straight down back to the pavement.

Only the raised intersection stretches across an entire intersection.

“Speed humps are designed strictly to get vehicles to slow down,” said John Hollida, a Rockville civil engineer who designed the Baltimore Road raised intersection. “A raised intersection has a combination of purposes. It slows down ve-

hicles, alerts drivers to pedestrian crossings and it gives pedestrians a place to cross safely.”

Although it appears to be a red-brick amenity, the Baltimore Road raised intersection actually is made of asphalt. The brick pattern was stamped in the asphalt and it was then painted to look like brick. This method made installation quicker and easier, and likely will be easier to maintain than brick.

The raised intersection cost about \$70,000. It is expected to be a very valuable device for the Twinbrook neighborhood.

“The best traffic calming devices are the ones that can get a driver to change their driving pattern,” said Hollida. “A traffic circle does this by making a driver maneuver around it. However, a circle requires significant more area to construct. A raised intersection was the best device for this specific location.” **RR**

## Talking Rockville History

Rockville’s older citizens are proving that history is not just written in the text books.

The historic preservation staff in the City’s Department of Community Planning and Development Services is interviewing long-time city residents in the Lincoln Park and East Rockville communities and recording their captivating stories in an attempt to preserve the rich history of the city

Bobby Isreal, who works at the Lincoln Park Community Center, which has an adjacent park named for his father, a baseball player in the Negro Baseball Leagues, shared his story about growing up during desegregation. Isreal was one of the first black students to attend school in what once was

an all-white school system in Rockville.

“When I started going to public school in fifth grade, at what is now Beall Elementary, my first friend happened to be Mayor Alexander Greene’s son, Jamie Greene,” Isreal said. “He made the transition easier, but the first few months were still very difficult. It was a different time in Rockville. Some kids you played with on the playground ignored you when they saw you at the grocery store with their parents.”

Isreal remained friends with Greene until Greene was killed in a car accident in his early 20s. Isreal continues to keep in touch with Greene family members, who still live in Rockville.

“This project is so important

because it makes sure people won’t forget and so they really know the true history of Rockville,” Isreal said.

Shelby Spillers, a preservation planner for the City, is spearheading the project and hopes to eventually make the recordings part of an interactive Web site with pictures to accompany the stories.

“We have the ability to really illuminate the community’s history,” Spillers said.

Four residents have been interviewed since the project began last March and Spillers looks forward to recording many others.

For more information about the project, contact Spillers at 240-314-8234. **RR**

— Mary Robbins

## Years of Planting the Seeds of Community Garden Plot Program Has Grown For More Than Three Decades

For the past five years, Rockshire resident Karen Schartman’s kitchen has been filled with tomatoes, lettuce, squash and peppers, but they did not come from a local grocery store or farmers’ market.

Schartman participates in seed exchanges and scours catalogs to find unique varieties of vegetables and plants to grow in the garden plots she rents from the City from April 1-Nov. 15 in Woottons Mill Park.

participating in the program such as meeting neighbors with similar interests and keeping healthy.

“I live in a townhouse so I don’t have a lot of room to garden,” she said. “I can walk to the park, pick up things for lunch or dinner and walk back. There is nothing like



Rockville’s Garden Plot program allows vegetable lovers to grow specialized varieties that can not be found in most stores, such as this summer collection of tomatoes grown by Karen Schartman.

For more than three decades, citizens have participated in the Rockville Garden Plot Program, which offers residents like Schartman the opportunity to grow vegetables and plants among 158 plots 20 by 25 feet in size. The plots are located off of Hurley Avenue.

Schartman enjoys the gardens so much that she has participated for the past five years and maintained four full plots for the past three years.

having fresh vegetables when ever you want.”

City residents pay \$40 and nonresidents pay \$50 per plot. The City turns the soil and stakes off each plot. In addition there are water sources available. Residents must provide their own tools and hoses.

Detailed information about the 2005 Garden Plot Program, including an application form, is available on the City’s Web site at [www.rockvillemd.gov/residents/garden/index.html](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/residents/garden/index.html).

For more information, call 240-314-8660 or e-mail [nbelice@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:nbelice@rockvillemd.gov). **RR**

“I really like planting heirloom vegetables,” she said. “Some people find one variety that grows well and they stick with it. But I like to grow a number of different varieties. It’s fun to grow unique things you can’t buy anywhere else.”

Schartman said there are many other benefits to par-



The “oasis” near Woottons Mill Park becomes a garden haven for many Rockville residents each summer, including Karen Schartman.



# INSIDE MAYOR & COUNCIL

A Glimpse into the City Government at Work



**THE FIRST CHAPTER...** Left to right: City Councilmember Bob Dorsey, Maryland State Senator Jennie M. Forehand, Montgomery County Council President Thomas Perez, City Councilmember Anne Robbins, City Councilmember John Hall, Jr., County Councilmember Phil Andrews, Rockville Mayor Larry Giammo and City Councilmember Susan Hoffmann celebrated the groundbreaking of the new Rockville Regional Library in January.

## 2005 Citizen Survey Results Coming Soon

This spring, Rockville's Mayor and Council will receive the results of the 2005 Citizen Survey. The third biennial survey assesses citizens' views of Rockville's government services, quality of life in the City, the community's amenities, and local issues.

Residents who received surveys are encouraged to return them by the end of February so their input can be counted.

The results will be presented at a Mayor and Council work session on April 25.

In January, the eight-page 2005 survey was mailed to 3,000 randomly selected households in the city. In addition to English, the survey was made available in five languages (Spanish, Chinese, Korean, Russian and Vietnamese), reflecting the city's growing diversity according to the 2000 census. Translation help also was provided to respondents.

Among the areas the survey

explored were the importance of City programs and services; how much citizens use existing facilities and take advantage of special events; their impression of City employees and the redevelopment of Rockville's Town Center.

"We receive and respond to feedback from citizens every day," said Linda Moran, the City's Council Support Specialist. "But the Citizen's Survey provides a formal, unbiased view of resident's thoughts and opinions on the City. It lets us know what is working and what can be improved."

The National Research Center, based in Boulder, Colo., conducted the anonymous survey. The results will be posted on [www.rockvillemd.gov](http://www.rockvillemd.gov).

In the 2003 survey, 93 percent of respondents said the quality of life in Rockville was "excellent" or "good" and 86 percent said the City was an excellent or good place to raise children.**RR**

## City's Compensation Commission To Hold March 1 Public Hearing

The City of Rockville's Compensation Commission, a five-member appointed panel that meets every two years to recommend possible changes to the salary of the Mayor and Councilmembers, would like residents to express their opinions on the issue.

The commission will conduct a public hearing on Tuesday, March 1, starting at 7 p.m. in the Mayor and Council Chambers.

City Code requires the commission to consider the duties and responsibilities of the Mayor and Council, the compensation of elected officials in comparable jurisdictions and any increase or decrease in the cost of living within

the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area. Other factors the commission deem relevant also may be considered in making recommendations.

Persons wishing to testify at the hearing can call 240-314-8280, before 4 p.m. on March 1, to place their names on the speakers' list.

The commission is required to make a recommendation to the Mayor and Council by March 31. Any change in compensation would not take effect until after the November 2005 elections. Currently, Rockville's mayor is paid \$16,421 annually and the Councilmembers are each paid \$13,200. **RR**

## Maryland Reckless Drivers Beware

Rockville Mayor Larry Giammo, Maryland District 17 Delegate Luiz R.S. Simmons and Maryland State Senator Jennie M. Forehand are seeking passage of Maryland state legislation that would create tougher penalties for reckless drivers whose actions cause fatalities.

House Bill 137 was introduced by Delegate Simmons and Senate Bill 270 proposed by Senator Forehand.

Rockville's Mayor and Council strongly support the legislation.

On Feb. 3, Mayor Giammo testified at a hearing in Annapolis in support of the issue. Over the past three years, the Mayor and Council have taken numerous steps to promote pedestrian and traffic safety.

Under current Maryland law, drivers whose reckless ac-

tions lead to the deaths of other parties can only be charged with relevant traffic citations. The current Maryland standard of "gross negligence" means that drivers can only be charged with vehicular homicide if they were driving drunk or under the influence of drugs because prosecutors have to prove intent.

The proposed legislation would create tougher penalties for those who cause the death of another as a result of "a person driving, operating or controlling a vehicle in a criminally negligent manner." If signed into law, guilty persons could receive up to three years in jail and/or a maximum fine of \$5,000.

There are about 21 states across the country with similar laws. **RR**



**Maryland Delegate Luiz R.S. Simmons (far left), Maryland State Senator Jennie M. Forehand, Takoma Park Mayor Kathy Porter and Charles Auer, father of 21-year-old Sarah Avery who was killed by a reckless driver, stand with Mayor Larry Giammo at a news conference in Rockville to support proposed new legislation to create tougher penalties for reckless drivers.**



**FOND FAREWELL...** Rockville's Mayor and Council honored two longtime City employees and Rockville residents, Chris Bartlett (third from right), former senior neighborhood resources coordinator, and Bob Spalding (second from right), former chief of planning, for their years of service and dedication to the City at a meeting on Monday, Feb. 7. Bartlett left the City in December and Spalding left in January to pursue new opportunities in private businesses.



Mayor  
Larry Giammo



Councilmember  
Robert E. (Bob) Dorsey



Councilmember  
John F. Hall, Jr.



Councilmember  
Susan R. Hoffmann



Councilmember  
Anne M. Robbins

## Mayor & Council Drop In

The Mayor and one Councilmember are available to meet with residents on a drop-in basis in the Mayor and Council office at City Hall from 5:30-6:30 p.m. on Mondays (unless otherwise noted) when there is a General Session or Public Hearing. Call the City Clerk's Office (240-314-8280) as drop-in times are subject to change.

In addition to Mayor Larry Giammo, the Councilmember scheduled for March is:

- **Monday, March 21:** John Hall, Jr.

## Mayor & Council Meetings

All General Sessions, Worksessions and Public Hearings are televised on The Rockville Channel (TRC 11), and are available on streaming video at: [www.rockvillemd.gov](http://www.rockvillemd.gov). Citizens may comment on any subject for up to three minutes during the "Citizens Forum" portion at most general session meetings. All meetings are subject to change.

- **March 7 (Mon.)** General Session, 7 p.m.
- **March 14 (Mon.)** Worksession (Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance-tentative), 7 p.m.
- **March 21 (Mon.)** Worksession (Art in Town Center), 7 p.m.

## Boards & Commissions Vacancies

The City is seeking applicants for appointment to the following:

- Environment Commission (two)
- Human Services Advisory Commission (one at-large)
- Human Rights Commission (three)
- Rockville Scholarship Foundation (two)
- Rockville Sister City Corp. (one)
- Traffic and Transportation (one)

For more information, contact the Office of the City Clerk at 240-314-8280.



# OUT & ABOUT IN ROCKVILLE

Highlighting City Events and Programs



Rockville travelers explored the treasures of Rockville's Sister City, Pinneberg, Germany, during a bicycle trip in 1999. Sign-ups are underway for this year's trip, which will take place June 14-23.

## Adventure Vacation Awaits: Cycle in Germany With Rockville Sister City Corp.

Rockville's Sister City Corporation has a great way to learn about another culture while also getting a workout on your next vacation.

Registration has begun for the Rockville Sister City Corporation's bicycle trip to Pinneberg, Germany, from June 14-23.

The trip, which is open to any Rockville resident and member of the Sister City Corporation, includes six days of rides that average 20 to 30 miles each day. The trip also has a bus tour to Berlin and a tour of Hamburg. Each participant will be hosted in a Pinneberg resident's home.

People of all cycling skills are welcome to participate in the trip as the pace and distance of each bicycle ride will be comfortable even for beginners. A vehicle to assist riders with mechanical or

other problems will accompany each cycling tour. Rental bicycles will be available.

Family memberships to RSCC are \$25 and individual memberships are \$20 per year. In addition to a RSCC membership, trip fees will include airfare, bicycle rental and some meals.

This June's trip will be the second bicycling tour of Pinneberg for Rockville citizens. The first tour occurred in 1999 and was such a huge success for board member Tom McKenna that he decided to get more involved in the group.

"I saw the trip mentioned in *Rockville Reports* about this time of year back in 1999 and thought it looked interesting," said McKenna. "I had never been to Pinneberg or really bicycled that much, but

I decided to attend an informational meeting and then ultimately participate in the trip. The people were such great hosts and I had such a good time experiencing their culture, that I have gone back several times since and am now a board member in the Sister City Corporation."

Rockville and Pinneberg have enjoyed a strong Sister City relationship since 1957. Highlights of the relationship have included many cultural, sports, student, technology, political and social exchanges.

For more information or to register for the trip, contact RSCC board member, Norm Hampton at 301-251-8651 or e-mail [norhampt@aol.com](mailto:norhampt@aol.com). The trip is expected to fill up quickly. A deposit is required to reserve a place on the trip. [RR](#)

## Nature Center Now Recycles 'E-waste'

Old cell phones, PDA's, pagers and used printer cartridges piling up? Now Rockville residents have a way to dispose of their "E-waste" that helps the environment and supports breast cancer research.

Beginning in early February, Croydon Creek Nature Center launched its participation in a national program that recycles electronic waste. In addition to getting the items out of the nation's landfills, the program makes a donation for every used printer cartridge and used cell phone to a breast cancer research foundation.

"Our primary goal is to get these items out of people's

trash and into the recycling pipeline so the material can be reused," said Valerie Oliver, director of the Croydon Creek

Nature Center. "The fact that a donation is made for breast cancer research is also a bonus."

Collection bins for used electronic items are located in the Croydon Creek Nature Center at 852 Avery Road and at the Recreation and Parks Department in City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue.

For a complete, detailed list of items accepted through the program or for more information about Recycle for Breast Cancer, visit [www.recycleforbreastcancer.org](http://www.recycleforbreastcancer.org). [RR](#)



## Modified Softball Speeds Into Rockville Sports

Rockville's Department of Recreation and Parks, always seeking to expand its programs when interest exists, this spring will offer a men's modified softball league to complement the many slow-pitch leagues that already are part of the City's vast adult softball program.

In traditional slow-pitch softball, a pitch must have an arc of between six and 12 feet before it reaches the plate. Modified softball does not require an arc, meaning pitches will be faster—although "windmill" and "slingshot" pitches are not allowed.

Team slots are still available for the new league in

which each team will play 20 games scheduled as part of doubleheaders. Games will be played on Sunday mornings starting in April and continuing through July.

"Modified softball is popular in some parts of the country," said Chuck Miller, a sports program supervisor for Rockville. "When we had some people interested, we decided to give it a try. Some softball players think the rules of modified softball make it a bit more like the strategy of baseball."

For more information on entering the new league, contact Miller at 240-314-8620. [RR](#)

## Rockville Coach and Athlete Receive Mid-Atlantic Sportsmanship Awards

The Mid-Atlantic Recreation & Parks Sports Alliance honored high school freshman Terry Kernan and Rockville recreation coach Weston Frank on Jan. 31 during its first annual Sportsmanship Awards ceremony at the Maryland State House in Annapolis.

Co-sponsored by Speaker of the House Mike Busch, Kernan and Frank were recognized for consistent commitment to positive sportsmanship during their participation in Rockville athletics.

A freshman at Gonzaga High School, Kernan has participated in several sports through the City of Rockville's Department of Recreation and Parks since first grade. His leadership, commitment and dedi-

cation have earned him the respect of fellow players, opponents and recreation staff.

"Sportsmanship makes the game more fun to play and helps you become a better player," he said.

Frank has coached for the past nine years in the Department of Recreation and Parks sports programs including t-ball, soccer and baseball. He works with children to make sure they have fun, learn the sport and make it an experience that they will remember forever.

"The [Rockville Recreation and Parks] department really promotes good sportsmanship," said Frank. "I have had aggressive parents that I've talked to, but those problems

have been resolved. We have a nucleus of great parents at College Gardens Elementary who are extremely active and help me out a lot. It's a really good bunch."

Rockville is one of 33 members of the Mid-Atlantic Recreation and Parks Sports Alliance, a consortium of Recreation and Parks Departments, officials' organizations and youth sports associations in the Mid-Atlantic region.

The Alliance upholds that organizations and their players, coaches and spectators are accountable to a code of conduct that promotes sportsmanship and keeps recreational competitive and non-competitive sporting activities in proper perspective. [RR](#)



Longtime Rockville Recreation and Parks participants, Weston Frank, left, and Terry Kernan were honored in Annapolis in January for their outstanding sportsmanship. The first annual award is part of a new program through the Mid-Atlantic Recreation and Parks Sports Alliance, of which Rockville is a member.



## In Brief

### Good Neighbor Nominations

Applications are currently being accepted for the third annual Rockville “Good Neighbor Awards.”

Rockville residents who after July 2004 made a significant contribution to the community, a neighbor or to the City in general may be eligible.

To nominate an adult or youth for an award, or for more information, contact Dwayne Jenkins at 240-314-8343 or visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/residents/ncs/gnaward.htm](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/residents/ncs/gnaward.htm)

CALL **240-314-8343** FOR INFO

### Oral History Workshop March 5

Volunteers will learn how to transcribe interviews that have been taken as a part of the Montgomery County Historical Society’s Oral History Program on Saturday, March 5, from 9:30-11:30 a.m. at the Beall-Dawson House, 103 W. Montgomery Avenue in Rockville. The workshop is free, but an advance application is necessary. For more information e-mail [lcrawley@montgomeryhistory.org](mailto:lcrawley@montgomeryhistory.org) or call 301-340-2825.

CALL **301-762-2825** FOR INFO

### Free Tax Assistance At New Location

Rockville’s Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA), a free tax preparation for low-income residents and senior citizens, will have a new home this year.

The program will now be incorporated into the tax preparation assistance program operated through the Montgomery County Child Care Resource and Referral Center at 332 West Edmonston Drive in Rockville. The program will continue to operate on Tuesday nights from 5-9 p.m. In addition, preparers will be available from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Wednesdays and Thursdays. This schedule will be in place through Thursday, April 14.

Advance appointments are required to have taxes prepared. For more information on the program or to make an appointment, call 301-279-1035.

CALL **301-279-1035** FOR INFO

### Metropolitan Ballet at Montgomery College

The Metropolitan Ballet Theatre will present its 16th annual spring performance, “Little Red Riding Hood,” and other varied dances on Saturday, March 19,

from 1-5 p.m. at the Robert E. Parilla Performing Arts Center at Montgomery College in Rockville. Tickets are \$17 advance general admission, \$19 at the door and \$14.50 for groups of 10 or more. Call 301-762-1757 for tickets or visit [www.MetropolitanBalletTheatre.com](http://www.MetropolitanBalletTheatre.com) for more information.

CALL **301-762-1757** FOR INFO

### New Bi-annual Listing of City Events

A free brochure with details on major City events is now available at City facilities and participating area businesses. The City of Rockville 2005 Bi-annual Events Calendar features information on the dozens of events offered each month in the City.

To list an event or to receive a free copy by mail, call the City Public Information office at 240-314-8116 or e-mail [jgreenhalgh@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:jgreenhalgh@rockvillemd.gov)

CALL **240-314-8116** FOR INFO

### Historic Awards Nominations Due March 1 to Peerless

Since 1979, Peerless Rockville has recognized excellence in restoration, adaptive use or maintenance of historic structures in quality



**SPRING INTO THE SEASON...** *Photos with Peter Cottontail are one popular part of the annual Spring Eggstravaganza and Family Kite Festival. This year’s event is on Saturday, March 26, from 10 a.m.-12 noon at Rockville Civic Center Park.*

new design and achievements in historic preservation.

That tradition will continue this year as nominations for the Peerless Rockville Preservation Awards and Wagman Award for Historic Preservation Communication are due by Tuesday, March 1. The awards will be presented on May 2 at City Hall. More information and nomination forms are available at [www.peerlessrockville.org](http://www.peerlessrockville.org) or by calling 301-762-0096.

CALL **301-762-0096** FOR INFO

### An Afternoon of Civil War Medicine

Re-enactors from the Montgomery County Historical Society portraying Dr. Edward E. Stonestreet and Clara Barton will share the realities of medical treatments during the Civil War era on Sunday, March 13, from 12 noon- 4 p.m at the Stonestreet Museum of 19<sup>th</sup> Century Medicine, 103 W. Montgomery Avenue. Free. For more information call 301-762-1492 or go to [www.montgomeryhistory.org](http://www.montgomeryhistory.org).

CALL **301-762-2825** FOR INFO

## CITY

### 4 Sister City Wine Tasting Social: “Southern Europe Wine Journey Continued”

7:30 p.m. Glenview Mansion in Rockville Civic Center Park. Tickets before Feb. 25: \$20 RSCC MEM, \$35 NM, after: \$25 RSCC MEM, \$30 NM 240-314-5029

### 4,18 MOBY Medical Clinic

Primary medical care to low-income, uninsured, working-poor and homeless people in Montgomery County. 9:30-11:30 a.m. Twinbrook Community Recreation Center. 301-493-2400

### 11,25 MOBY Medical Clinic

9:30-11:30 a.m. Lincoln Park Community Recreation Center. 301-493-2400

### 19 Off-Leash Dog Testing

Tests to see if City dogs can be walked without a leash. Call to register as date is subject to change. 10 a.m. Swim Center Outdoor Entrance Parking Lot. 240-314-8930

### 22 Peerless Rockville presents “Civic Activism - The Public Good”

Volunteers from groups concerned with youth, fire and safety, civic improvement, women’s issues and low-income Rockville residents discuss how conditions have changed over the years. 7:30 p.m. Red Brick Courthouse. FREE. 301-762-0096

### 26 Spring Eggstravaganza

Children between the ages of 1 and 9 are invited to participate in spring activities including egg hunts, arts and crafts and to meet Peter Cottontail. All children attending will be divided by age groups. Everyone will go home with an equal amount of prizes and eggs. 10 a.m.-12 noon Rockville Civic Center Park. FREE. 240-314-8620

### 26 Rockville Family Kite Fest

The 7th Annual Rockville Kite Fest is a day of fun with kites, face painting and a moon bounce. A kite hospital will be available to help with kite repairs. Families are encouraged to

## march

RES. = Residents • NR. = Non Residents • MEM. = Member • NM. = Non Member

bring a picnic lunch. 10 a.m.-12 noon. Rockville Civic Center Park. FREE. Kites \$1. 240-314-8620

### ARTS

*The Glenview Mansion Art Gallery and F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre are located in Rockville’s Civic Center Park. Arts Hotline: 240-314-5006. Tickets may be purchased online at [www.rockvillemd.gov/theatre](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/theatre). Service charges apply.*

### 6-22 Glenview Mansion Art Gallery Rockville Student Art Show

Reception on Sunday, March 6, from 1-4 p.m. For more information, call 240-314-8682

### 6 Glenview Mansion Sunday Afternoon Concert Series

Musical Theatre Centre presents a Broadway musical song and dance. Sunday, 2-3 p.m. FREE. For more information call, 240-314-8682

### 6 Rockville Arts Sampler

The F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre resident performing groups present vignettes from recent productions. Rockville Annual Arts Awards presented. 3 p.m. F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre, 240-314-8690

### 11,12,13,18,19 The Musical Theater Center presents “Spotlight on Broadway 2005”

Friday 7:30 p.m., Saturday 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., and Sunday at 2 p.m. Tickets: \$16.50 adults, \$14.50 children/students/seniors. F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre. For tickets call 301-251-5766

### 20 Rockville Concert Band: “Children’s Concert”

F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre. FREE, tickets required. Box office: 240-314-8690

### NATURE

*All programs are at the Croydon Creek Nature Center, 852 Avery Road, Rockville Civic Center Park, unless noted. Registration is required. Register online at [www.rockvillemd.gov](http://www.rockvillemd.gov) or call 240-314-8770.*

## calendar of events

### 3 Great Mistakes in Science

Learn about the cool things have been invented when scientists have made mistakes. 4-5 p.m. Ages 9-11. \$4 RES/\$5 NR

### 9 Tiny Tot Walk – Shamrocks

Try to find a clover with three or four leaves. 10:30-11:15 a.m. Ages 1 1/2-2. \$4 RES/\$5 NR

### 9 Tyke Hike – Shamrocks

1-2 p.m. \$4 RES/\$5 NR

### 17 Porcupines

10-11 p.m. Ages 3-6 \$4 RES/\$5 NR

### 18 Toad Abodes

Learn how to attract these bumpy creatures to your garden and make a toad abode. 7-8 p.m. All ages. \$23 RES/\$28NR

### 24 Salamanders

Discover the world of salamanders. Make a craft and take a hike to learn about where these slippery critters live. 10-11 a.m. Ages 3-6. \$4 RES/\$5 NR

### Spring Break With Nature. March 28-31

### 28 Crystal Grottoes

Travel by van to experience a real cave. Learn about what animals live in caves and how they are adapted to this dark environment. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Ages 7-12. \$35 RES/\$40 NR

### 29 On Top of Old Sugarloaf

Hike to the top of Sugarloaf Mountain to look for Black and Turkey Vultures and, if the sun is shining, any snakes emerging from their winter rest. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Ages 7-12. \$35 RES/\$40 NR

### 30 Bird Bonanza

With the guidance of a licensed bird-bander, try your hand at banding some birds that visit the Nature Center’s feeders. Then venture out in the field to see how many other species of birds we can find. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Ages 7-12. \$35 RES/\$40 NR

### 31 Amazing Amphibians

9 a.m.-3 p.m. Ages 7-12. RES \$40 /\$45 NR

### SENIORS

*All programs are at the Rockville Senior Center, 1150 Carnation Drive, unless noted. Phone: 240-314-8800*

### 1,3,8,10 Photo Editing

1-3 p.m. \$45 MEM/\$50 NM. Registration required

### 2 Birthday Party

1:30-3 p.m. FREE

### 2 Clarify Computer Concepts

10 a.m.-12 noon \$6 MEM/\$8 NM. Registration required

### 3 Retired White House Executive Chef

10:30-11:30 a.m. FREE. Register by Mar. 1

### 3,7,9,11,16,23 E-Bay: A Thorough Understanding

1-3 p.m. \$75/MEM, \$85/NM. Registration required

### 4,11,18 Archaeology in Maryland

12:30-2:30 p.m. FREE. Register by Mar. 1

### 10,17,24,31-Apr.21 Help For Your Hearing

1:30-3:30 p.m. Learn about hearing loss and how to improve communication. \$40 fee payable to the University of Maryland

### 11 Wild About Wildflowers

10:30 a.m.-12 noon. \$5 MEM/\$8 NM Register by Mar. 4

### 16 Spring Trip Registration

10 a.m. FREE

### 17 You And Your Blood Vessels

1-2 p.m. FREE

### 18 Short Story Writing

10:15 a.m.-12 noon. FREE. Register by Mar. 1

## BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

*All meetings are at City Hall unless otherwise noted.*

### 5 Board of Appeals

9:30 a.m., Red Brick Courthouse

### 8 Human Services Advisory Commission

7:30 p.m., Azalea Room, Senior Center

### 8 Commission on the Environment

7:30 p.m.

### 9 Planning Commission

7 p.m.

### 9 Cultural Arts Commission

7 p.m., Cottage at Civic Center Park

### 15 Rockville Seniors, Inc.,

1 p.m., Senior Center

### 15 Town Center Action Team

7 p.m., Room 105, Red Brick Courthouse

### 16 Rockville Housing Enterprises

6:30 p.m., Lincoln Park Community Center

### 16 Sign Review Board

4 p.m. (held as needed)

### 17 Rockville Sister City Corporation

7:30 p.m., Board Room, Senior Center

### 17 Senior Citizens Commission

10 a.m., Senior Center

### 17 Historic District Commission

7 p.m., Senior Center

### 23 Planning Commission

7 p.m.

### 23 Human Rights Commission

7:30 p.m.

### 24 Recreation and Parks Advisory Board

7 p.m., King Farm Community Center

### 25 Rockville Economic Development, Inc. Board Meeting

7:30 a.m., 95 Monroe Street (call 301-315-8096)

### 29 Traffic and Transportation Commission

7:30 p.m.

March 2005 Rockville Reports


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# Rockville Up Close: Cambridge Heights Rises Above

Residents help shape Rockville through involvement with neighborhood and civic associations and participation on Mayor and Council-appointed Boards and Commissions. On a regular basis, Rockville Up Close will take an in-depth look at these organizations.

Comprised of 38 town homes, the Cambridge Heights Homeowners Association may be one of the smallest HOAs in Rockville. But its members are helping the City in some big ways. The community is situated at the corner of Route 28 and Research Boulevard. “The increased traffic during morning and evening rush hours as result of the development in the Falls Grove Community is our number one issue,” said Cambridge Heights president Tim Stranges. “We have been advocating for a red light camera [from the State Highway Administration] for the last two years.” Community members also are in support of the construction of a new pedestrian/bicycle bridge across 270 that would provide a safe path to Rockville Town Center. In addition to making suggestions for better traffic and transportation, Cambridge Heights residents promote community bonding through an annual yard sale in the spring and a potluck picnic each September in their common open space. The group recently added new park benches to their shared grassy area to encourage more residents to enjoy the outdoors and get to know each other. Stranges said the community members really enjoy living in Rockville. “We live in a great location with lots of amenities. We enjoy the easy access to parks and the wildlife we have seen in our own backyards – deer, foxes, wild turkeys and our ‘resident hawk,’” he said. “We appreciate the responsiveness of the City to our concerns, especially the trash services. Every time we have a special pick-up or if something is missed, the Public Works crews are able to come out the same day and take care of it. Our neighborhood resources coordinator, Dwayne Jenkins, is also always there for us if we have questions.” **RR**



**The Cambridge Heights Homeowners Association has carefully helped guide the 38-home community since the development was established in 1990. The association’s board of directors includes, left to right, Treasurer Ted Lieb, Hyman Park, Haesung Park, President Tim Stanges and Vice President Ritch Bowie. Missing from photo: Marilyn Zeiberg.**

## Wines of Southern Europe On Tap For March 4

### Sister City Corp. Presents 13th Annual Wine Tasting at Glenview

For the past 13 years, supporters of Rockville’s relationship with its Sister City Pinneberg, Germany, have gathered at Glenview Mansion to share camaraderie and excellent food and drink among the backdrop of mansion’s elegant neoclassical decor. That tradition will continue on Friday, March 4, at 7:30 p.m. as the Rockville Sister City Corporation hosts its 13th annual Wine Tasting Social “Southern Europe Wine Journey Continued.”

“Last year’s wine tasting featuring wines of Southern Europe was so successful, we decided to bring it back again this year,” said Norm Hampton, a member of the Rockville Sister City Corporation Board of Directors “And we are deeply grateful to our new sponsor, Theo’s Restaurant of Rockville, for its generous support that will make this wine tasting the best yet.”

The wine tasting will feature white wines of Spain, France, Italy, Greece and Hungary. A variety of foods will also be on hand, courtesy of Theo’s, to complement the wine offerings. For reservations received before February 25, admission is \$20 per person for RSCC members and \$25 for non-members. For reservations received after that date, admission will be \$25 for members and \$30 for non-members. Membership applications can be found on the RSCC web site at [www.rocknet.org/Community/SisterCities](http://www.rocknet.org/Community/SisterCities) under “Join US.” RSCC Memberships can also be purchased at the Wine Social. Reservations are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis and space is limited. Mail a check made payable to Rockville Sister City Corporation c/o City of Rockville, 111 Maryland Ave., Rockville, Md. 20850. For more information about the event, call 240-314-5029. **RR**


TRC 11	THE ROCKVILLE CHANNEL MARCH PROGRAMMING SCHEDULE						
	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
12 Midnight until meeting ends	Planning Commission ▼	Mayor & Council ▼	Mayor & Council ▼	Mayor & Council ▼	Mayor & Council ▼	Mayor & Council ▼	Planning Commission ▼
6 a.m.	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report
6:30 a.m.	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline
7 a.m.	Rockville City Government	Preserving the Past	Rockville City Government	Preserving the Past	Rockville City Government	Preserving the Past	Rockville City Government
7:30 a.m.	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review
8 a.m.	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report
8:30 a.m.	Mayor & Council ▼	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	Mayor & Council ▼
9 a.m.	▼	Rockville City Government	Diversity in the City: Asian ▼	Rockville City Government	RU:Public Safety ▼	Preserving the Past	▼
9:30 a.m.	▼	Preserving the Past	▼	Preserving the Past	▼	Rockville City Government	▼
10 a.m.	▼	Community Mediation	RU:Public Safety ▼	Community Mediation	▼	RU:Public Safety ▼	▼
10:30 a.m.	▼	Caregivers: Mentors	▼	Caregivers: Mentors	Diversity in the City: Asian ▼	▼	▼
11 a.m.	Cityline	Exploring the Past	▼	Exploring the Past	▼	▼	Cityline
11:30 a.m.	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review
12 noon	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report
12:30 p.m.	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline
1 p.m. until meeting ends	Mayor & Council ▼	Planning Commission ▼	Mayor & Council ▼	Mayor & Council ▼	Planning Commission ▼	Mayor & Council ▼	Planning Commission ▼
4 p.m.	Rockville City Government	▼	Preserving the Past	Diversity in the City: Asian ▼	▼	Rockville City Government	▼
4:30 p.m.	Preserving the Past	RU:Public Safety ▼	Rockville City Government	▼	RU:Public Safety ▼	Preserving the Past	RU:Public Safety ▼
5 p.m.	Community Mediation	▼	Caregivers: Mentors	Rockville City Government	▼	Diversity in the City: Asian ▼	▼
5:30 p.m.	Caregivers: Mentors	▼	Community Mediation	Preserving the Past	▼	▼	▼
6 p.m.	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report
6:30 p.m.	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review
7 p.m.	Planning Commission ▼	Mayor & Council ▼	RU:Public Safety ▼	Planning Commission ▼	Community Mediation	Mayor & Council ▼	RU:Public Safety ▼
7:30 p.m.	▼	▼	▼	▼	RU:Public Safety ▼	▼	▼
8:30 p.m.	▼	▼	Diversity in the City: Asian ▼	▼	▼	▼	Community Mediation
9 p.m.	▼	▼	▼	▼	Rockville City Government	▼	Rockville City Government
9:30 p.m.	▼	▼	Cityline	▼	Cityline	▼	Cityline
10 p.m.	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report
10:30 p.m.	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review
11 p.m.	Community Mediation	Diversity in the City: Asian	Rockville City Government	Preserving the Past	Diversity in the City: Asian	Preserving the Past	Diversity in the City: Asian
11:30 p.m.	Responsive & Responsible: Rockville City Government		Community Mediation	Rockville City Government		Caregivers: Mentors	

## Volunteer Time: Pets on Wheels

There are many ways to share talent, experience, expertise and time with individuals or organizations by volunteering in the City. Each month “Volunteer Time” highlights a different opportunity to promote an interest in giving back to the community.

For the past three years, Kerry and Bentley have brought joy into the lives of the area’s elderly in local nursing homes. These two are no ordinary dogooders — they are English Sheep Dogs. Every Sunday, their owner, Bobbie Havel, transports them to the National Lutheran Home in Rockville to take part in “Pets on Wheels,” a nonprofit organization located in Rockville that pairs pet owners with elderly residents. “You can tell that the residents really enjoy the dogs,” Havel said. “They introduce us to their relatives and they bond with them.” Pets on Wheels is sponsored by the Mental Health Association and is made up of 150 volunteers who take dogs and cats to visit 72 nursing homes, hospitals, group homes, assisted and independent living facilities, adult day care centers and a hospice. “I think the main reason our volunteers are so enthusiastic is because we get to see changes in the residents we visit all the time,” said Lezlie Crosswhite, program coordinator. “Just by seeing the dog or cat, they’ve gone from bored and lonely to awake and animated.” Pets are prescreened to ensure their personality and behavior fits the program’s needs. The owners are provided with training and must commit to visiting their assigned facility twice a month for at least a year. “The owners are always nervous, thinking we’re looking for perfect obedience, but that’s not the case at all,” said Crosswhite. “Most of all, the dogs have to enjoy meeting strangers and be friendly. And we are always looking for friendly cats as well.” To volunteer for Pets on Wheels or to make a financial contribution, contact Crosswhite at 301-424-0656 ex. 104 or [lcrosswhite@mhamc.org](mailto:lcrosswhite@mhamc.org). **RR**

— Amy Orndorff



**Mayor**  
LARRY GIAMMO

**Councilmembers**  
ROBERT E. DORSEY,  
JOHN F. HALL, JR.,  
SUSAN R. HOFFMANN,  
ANNE M. ROBBINS

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**Assistant City Manager:** Catherine Tuck Parrish  
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